

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's June 2008

Newsletter

This month

Roger and Dana Belasco are June's volunteer dance instructors.

- Thursday, June 5th: Tamra Hood is the DJ.
- Tuesday, June 10th: Board meeting 7pm at Something Sweet, 5319 E Speedway Blvd.
- Thursday, June 12th: **Just for fun Strictly Swing.** LP is the DJ.
- Thursday, June 19th: Tamra Hood is the DJ.
- Saturday, June 21st: Happy Hour at the Maverick, 6622 E Tanque Verde Rd, from 7-9pm.
- Thursday, June 26th: Welcome new DJ Robin Chlad.



Ro and Anna

Upcoming events

- Thursday, July 3rd: **No club dance!** Go to the Phoenix 4th of July preconvention dance that evening instead.
- Thursday, August 14th: Jack & Jill Finals.
- Saturday, December 13th: TSDC Christmas Party at the Tucson Convention Center.

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President's message

A common question that dancers of all levels ask is, "How can I improve my dancing?"



One of the best ways I've found to improve your dancing in a short amount of time is by attending national West Coast Swing conventions. Literally hundreds of people from all over the country go to these events to dance and socialize all weekend. You can sign up to compete in the Jack & Jill's or just cheer the competitors on. Watching the All Star and Champion divisions is always entertaining and inspiring

Whether you choose to compete or not, there are plenty of other opportunities to improve your dancing at conventions. There are workshops taught by Champion level dancers, and some of the best WCS DJ's in the country keep the open dancing going until 6 or 7 in the morning.

Be sure to turn to page 5 to see what other club members had to say about SwingDiego, a popular San Diego WCS convention that happened just last month.

Did you know that one of the biggest WCS conventions in the country happens right here in Arizona? Our sister club, the Greater Phoenix Swing Dance Club, is holding their annual 4th of July convention at the Arizona Biltmore Resort July 2nd – 6th. Our club has tables reserved for this convention and it's not too late to purchase tickets. You can purchase your event tickets through Harvey at the Thursday dances. Contact the Biltmore directly to reserve your room. If you have questions or want to make other arrangements, inquire at the front desk for additional contact information.

If you find the idea of competing on the national level intimidating, why not get your feet wet at one of our local club competitions? Our regular Jack & Jill season has come to an end, but in the meantime, we are going to have a "just for fun" Strictly Swing at the club on June 12th. What's a Strictly Swing? It's just like a Jack & Jill except you get to choose a partner ahead of time! The Strictly Swing is open to all club members, and you don't have to be evaluated as a Jack & Jill competitor to participate. We have some great prizes planned such as free passes to the club and instructional DVD's. To keep things fun and fair, we're asking that you choose a partner who is outside of your normal division. See you there!

James Hood

Parking and Security

Your Board of Directors wants your dance experience to be happy and fruitful and SAFE. Keep a close eye on purses, backpacks, cell phones and personal items of value during your evening of dancing. Ensure your vehicle is locked and secure. Do not place items of value in plain view within your car. Instead if you leave anything of value within your vehicle we suggest you lock it in your trunk. Vehicle break ins are rare but have occurred and we'd like to minimize that potential. Be safe and enjoy your evenings!

May Jack & Jill results

- Novice: Jeff Brucker and Bri Mergenthaler were in 1st place, Matt Rounseville and Martha McCloud were 2nd, and Jeff Brucker and Kim Kirkpatrick were 3rd. Music: *Taste It* by Blue, *Lady Marmalade* by Christina Aguilera, *Play* by Jennifer Lopez, *Just a Little* by Liberty X, and *Boogie 2Nite* by Tweet.
- Intermediate: Tom White and Rosanne Crago were in 1st place, Jim Davis and Brooke Schilling were 2nd, and Tom Grubaugh and Lynette Carter were 3rd. Music: *Rack 'Em Up* by Johnny Lang, *Try Matty's* by Aretha Franklin, *If You Want Me to Stay* by Etta James, *Black Satin* by Katie Webster, *Turn it On! Turn it Up* by Roomful of Blues, and *Reconsider Baby* by Nathaniel Street West.
- Advanced: Hondo Velasco and Ellen Colonna were in 1st place, James Hood and April Amstutz were 2nd, and Harvey Dong and Tamra Hood were 3rd. Music: *Promiscuous (Radio Edit)* by Nelly Furtado, *Lovestoned* by Justin Timberlake, *Low* by Flo Rida, *Taste of Dis* by Brooke Valentine, and *Sexyback (Clean)* by Justin Timberlake.

On the road

At SwingDiego, Wendy Miller was 4th in the Advanced Jack & Jill, and 3rd in the Open Strictly Swing.



Jeff, Bri, Kim, Martha, and Matt



Tom, Rosanne, Lynette, Tom, Jim, and Brooke



Ellen, Hondo, April, James, Tamra, and Harvey

Bylaw revisions

The TSDC Board of Directors has proposed a significant revision of the Bylaws. Most of the proposed changes are to clean up outdated provisions about how the club's website operates, and also establishes Website Administrator as a new appointed position on the Board.

The Bylaws require that the Board publish a notice in the newsletter about proposed revisions at least three weeks before the Board can vote on the changes.

You can find the full text of the proposed revised Bylaws on the website at www.tsd.net.

Just for fun Strictly Swing

The regular Jack & Jill season ended in May, so in June we'll do something different – a Strictly Swing contest. Any Club member can enter, but unlike the Jack & Jill contests you need to choose your own partner ahead of time and enter as a couple. You don't have to be qualified for the Jack & Jill contests, but if you are a current Jack & Jill competitor then we ask that you choose a partner outside of your regular division. So a Novice follower might choose an Advanced leader as her partner, but not a Novice leader.

The contest will be on June 12th, and while it's just for fun there will be prizes!

Anna's SwingDiego review

They call it the Superbowl of Swing - SwingDiego, a convention by the beach. Our TSDC is populated by a number of advanced and champion dancers who like nothing better than to strut their stuff on the national stage, and that's just what happened once again at SwingDiego 2008. Many of the attendees took advantage of the beautiful destination to take a day or two of vacation in addition to dancing the weekend away.

For those who don't know, Swing Dance conventions are a wonderful way to have fun with your hobby (addiction), improve your dance skills, earn points, compete nationally and make new friends. There are a few events every month across the nation - many held within driving distance of our fair city. They offer competitions such as Jack & Jills, Classic Swing, Strictly Swing and even a Cabaret events to spice things up. SwingDiego has a particularly international flavour with placements this year from USA, Canada, the UK and France. In fact, the upcoming 4th of July event held in Phoenix annually is one of the longest running and largest events in the US, boasting an annual attendance of about 1,200 dancers ranging from rank newcomers to seasoned champions.

Some don't feel the call for competition though, and for those people conventions are probably the best place to get their social dance on. With exposure to new DJs they'll find the music is fresh and interesting. Plus, you get to learn new patterns, and new styles of dance as well as practice your moves on folks who didn't have the exact same training as you. You also get to watch champions and advanced dancers at their best, both on the social dance floor and as they compete against one another. SwingDiego is known as the event where showcase routines from these masters of the art of dance are revealed

to judges and the public for the first time before they're refined to win events throughout the year

For those who have been to ballroom competitions, rest assured, the atmosphere is considerably more casual. There's not a lot of stress from the judges and the competitions themselves are fairly low key until you get to champion level where it becomes more of a show. Both large and small conventions have their advantages; the smaller events tend to be more intimate, it's easier to get personal attention from an instructor during workshops, you get to know your floor-mates better, it's generally easier to place and there are usually fewer things on the schedule so you can take time to both eat and sleep during the weekend. But a larger event generally holds more prestige. There are more workshops and a higher caliber of champion to learn from every day, the prize money is better and the dance floor is rarely empty.

Another positive about conventions is that space just outside the dance floor where every level of dancer mixes and mingles in front of vendors who can hook you up with a variety of new dance shoes, snazzy accent clothes and even jewelry. Not only is it a great place to take a breather, but it's usually set up so you can grab a drink, network, pick up a video of the event and talk with the staff too. Some manage to avoid the vendors because they're dancing on a budget. They carpool to the event, share rooms, volunteer to work and manage to spend the weekend dancing for little more than their fraction of the room cost. Those with fewer budget constraints tend to prefer to take their time away to relax and will bypass all the money-saving options to have more room to spread out and breathe. Either way you choose to do it, you can usually find a good balance between the energy of dancing and the importance of quality down time.

One of the things that distinguishes SwingDiego from your average convention is the Social Dance Award, won this year by our own Wendy Miller. This award is up for grabs to any dancer who is nominated by his or her peers. It really encapsulates the soul of the event as one that prizes the importance of having fun on the floor with your fellow dancers. Not only are you awarded a large trophy, but as a reward for your positive attitude you are given a free ticket to the event for the rest of your life. Not many competitions value the social dancer as much as SwingDiego. In addition to the spirit of dancing for the people, SwingDiego is one of the few events that makes sure to also raise funds for charity so the dancers give back to the community.

When it comes to swing dance conventions, just grab a friend and go!

Dancers interviewed for this article include: Tosha Meshell, Wendy Miller, Lacey Petterson, Eleanor Schrandt and Ro Vaughn-Basden. If you have any questions about SwingDiego or conventions in general, please take some time to talk with them. They are all friendly and love to chat about the art of the dance.

Anna Basden

New members

Welcome Shirley Abshire, Eric Wade, Janice Shasteen, Virginia Parchment, Alan Rasmussen, and Susan Wester.

Birthdays

Members get in free the week of their birthday!

June 2nd: Harvey Dong

June 5th: Martin Rubio

June 10th: Kimberly Condoulis

June 11th: Lisa Brink

June 12th: Jordan Brown

June 13th: Lon Hood

June 20th: Tom Fox and Peter Ianchio

June 22nd: Norma Sebastian

June 25th: Kim Kirkpatrick

June 30th: Sherril Gear

June's video link

Check the website at www.tsdc.net for a video link to Melinda Ramirez and Jordan Frisbee from SwingDiego 2007.

TSDC 2008-2009 Board

James Hood is the President, Heather McLean is the Vice President, Don Bennett is the Treasurer, Robin Chald is the Membership Secretary, and Cathy Schreiber is the Corporate Secretary.

Kevin Burke is the Sergeant at arms, Ellen Colonna is the Head Judge, Jim Davis is the Newsletter Editor, Bill Garrity is the Jack & Jill Coordinator, Tamra Hood is the Music Director, Chris McLean is the club photographer, Heather McLean is the Website Administrator, and Eleanor Schrandt is the Hospitality Director.

Dance lessons at the club

Each month the club's dance instructors teach the beginning patterns in West Coast Swing. Students may start the sequence on any Thursday.

- First Thursday of the month: Left side pass, underarm turn, underarm turn with a hand change, and the right side pass.
- Second Thursday: 4-beat starter step, throwout, closed basic.
- Third Thursday: Sugarpush, tuck throwout, turning basic.
- Fourth Thursday: Basic whip, whip with and inside turn, whip with and outside turn.
- And in months with a fifth Thursday: Basket whip and variations.

We recommend taking the beginning class for three months before going on to the intermediate class. Intermediate classes teach pattern variations, combinations, and syncopations beyond the basics.

About the TSDC

Founded in 1977 by Rose Marie Burrell, the Tucson Swing Dance Club has dances Thursday night at the Tucson Woman's Club, 6245 E Bellevue Street. There are dances every Thursday night except on Thanksgiving or other major holidays.

Club instructors teach a beginning lesson from 7-7:45pm and an intermediate lesson from 8-8:30pm, with dancing until 10:30pm.

Admission is \$3 for members and \$5 otherwise; annual memberships cost \$25 and run from January 1st through December 31st. Members are also eligible to compete in the club Jack & Jill contests and can choose to get a printed copy of the newsletter. Anyone can read the newsletter online at www.tsd.net

Questions? Call our hotline at 520 745-0255.

We play your music at

Dance Party Tucson

Lessons: Beginner 6:30pm.

Intermediate/Advanced 7:15pm. Open Dance - 8pm. Cost: \$15 for the evening. **\$2 discount on admission for TSDC members.** 5000 square foot wooden dance floor!

Boys and Girls Clubs - 3155 E Grant (east of Country Country Club). Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

www.dancepartytucson.com



Miro's dance studio

Ad rates

Email ads to tsdcnewsletter@gmail.com and send a check payable to the Tucson Swing Dance Club to TSDC, P.O. Box 32226, Tucson, AZ 85751

Issues	1	2	4	6
Business card	\$7	\$13.50	\$25	\$35
Quarter page	\$14	\$27	\$50	\$68.60
Third page	\$19.50	\$37.50	\$65	\$95
Half page	\$25	\$45	\$70	\$100
Full page	\$40			
Single-sided insert	\$50			
Double-sided insert	\$80			



Palm Springs Swing Dance Classic Swingin' Summer Dance Camp

Major West Coast Swing Competition Excitement

Jul 31 - Aug 3, 2008 & Aug 6 -9, 2009

Wyndham Hotel

Palm Springs Cathedral City, CA

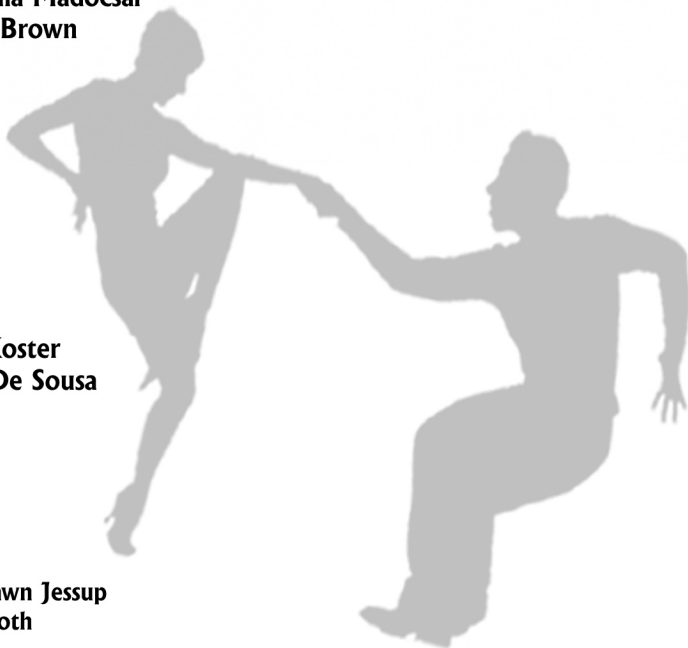
760-322-6000 , \$99 Mention "Dance Camp"

Super Stars:

Kyle Redd & Sarah Vann Drake
Brandi Tobias & Ronnie DeBenedetta
Ben Morris & Melina Ramirez
Gary Jobst & Csilla Madocsai
Patty Vo, Chuck Brown
Wendy Miller
Phil Adams
Luis Crespo
Jay Byam
Benny Corpos
Chris Jones
Donnie Carl
Gary Ulaner
Ian Kirkconnell
John & Brenda Koster
Mana & Miguel De Sousa
Trish Connery

VIP Staff

Vivienne Crespo
Jackie Ford
Victoria Tolonen
Nathan Miller, Shawn Jessup
Paul & Malinda Booth
Pat Eodice
John Kirkconnell
Darien Barret
Doug Silton
Matt Maiten
Danae Cardenas
Jack Berard
Scott Miller



People Who Dance



WSDC member

Major Competition Excitement

Jack-n-Jills

WCS Nov. Int. Adv.
WCS Master 50+
WCS Champions
WCS All American
Night Club Open
&

Strictly Swing

Nov. Int. Adv.
Master 50+
Champions

"Rising Star" Classic Swing!

- ~Over 30 Beginning to Champion Workshops
FREE with your event ticket!
- ~Evening Dances & Parties till LATE
- ~Fabulous Shows & Performances
- ~Host Cocktail Parties & Pool Parties
- ~Tons of Open Dancing!
- ~Casinos, Golf & Palm Springs FUN
- ~And more! Have a vacation with us!

More than just a swing event
More than just an exciting competition
This is an EXTRAVAGANZA!

Ticket Info at:

www.PeopleWhoDance.NET

Please Remember

**Palm Springs Swing Dance Classic
New Years Dance Camp & Masquerade Ball**

"Une Soiree de Mystique!" ~ Venez en cotume, s'il vous plait. ~

Please Reserve your table EARLY

Dec 31st to Jan 4th 2008-9, Wyndham Palm Springs

Director: Jay Byam

(805) 405-2946

JayBdancer@aol.com

PeopleWhoDance.net

